

- ☑ President pledges liberation of Iraq
- ☑ I survived the winter of 2003 - Spring is here!
- ☑ 439th ASTS activated (back page)
- ☑ Holyoke St. Pat's Day parade this sunday

Hours of operation

Chapel center:

Chaplain available 24 hours per day,
7 days per week
(pager: 413-785-3195), base Ext. 3031

Fitness center:

Monday-Friday, 5:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Saturday (non-UTA), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday (non-UTA), closed
UTA Saturdays, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
UTA Sundays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling center:

Monday-Friday lunch and bowling,
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Westover Consolidated Club:

Breakfast: 6-8 a.m. until Thursday
lunch, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
dinner, 5-8 p.m.

Westover Dining Facility (daily)

Beginning Thursday, breakfast,
6-8 a.m., \$1.60 for those on per diem,
UTA status - free
Midnight meals, 11 p.m.-1 a.m.
boxed meals provided daily

Family Support Center:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday of A UTA,
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Saturday of B UTA, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
closed Sunday of B UTA

Legal office:

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Base exchange:

Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shoppette:

Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
(7:30 p.m. starting tomorrow)
Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Barber shop (located next to BX)

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
closed Sundays

Daily base shuttle:

Bus will complete route every 15
minutes during meal hours at the
Westover Club and dining facility.
Other stops: Hangar Avenue, supply
and bowling center.

Iraqi Freedom under way

Units of the United States Armed Forces struck military targets in Baghdad and southern Iraq during the first air strikes of Operation Iraqi Freedom on Wednesday.

American forces struck the Iraqi capitol at about 9:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, but the attack took place just before dawn in Iraq.

Air Force B-52 bombers and F-117 Stealth fighters and Tomahawk missiles fired from naval warships were part of Wednesday night's attack.

President George W. Bush addressed the nation on national television at about 10:15 p.m., EST., to inform the American public that Operation Iraqi Freedom was under way.

Controllers keep eye on the sky



Air traffic controller Rich Hunting trains TSgt. Roman Comaduran, a reservist from McChord AFB, Wash., who has been called up to help cover 24 hour operations at Westover. Comaduran is an individual mobilization augmentee who lives in San Diego, Calif.

Article and photos by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

The best view of Hampden County is right here at Westover, 123 feet above the ground.

And those who survey the view the most – 12 air traffic controllers – are busier than



Ron Bainbridge, Westover air traffic manager, checks flight data information in the control tower.

ever these days, working three shifts per day to accommodate the surge of military aircraft flowing in and out of the base.

With 24-hour operations in effect, air traffic manager Ron Bainbridge said Westover has called in two Air Force reservists to help with the additional workload. Before the surge, the airfield was open from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m.

One military air traffic controller is already on board to help. TSgt. Roman Comaduran came from San Diego, Calif. He is an individual mobilization augmentee (IMA). Comaduran normally is called to support the control tower at McChord AFB, Wash. He said he didn't expect to be crossing the country for his IMA duty. Comaduran does not know how long his stay will be at Westover.

"My boss called me from McChord about this," he said. "I said, 'Where's Westover?' I anticipated going to home station."

(continued on next page)

439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

439th ASTS to set up staging facility

The 439th Aeromedical Staging Squadron activated 17 members for overseas duty this week. They went through a mobilization line on Monday with one 439th Medical Squadron member who will accompany them overseas.

The medical specialists will be tasked to join a larger unit from Maguire AFB to set up and operate a 100-bed aeromedical staging facility. Those activated include two physicians, medical technicians, administrative specialists, a pharmacy technician and a bio-equipment repair technician.

A three-person Critical Care Air Transport team was activated in March, 2002 and served three months in Southwest Asia.

During the Gulf War, the 439th ASTS's predecessor unit, the 23rd Aeromedical Patient Staging Squadron of Griffiss AFB, NY deployed to Saudi Arabia.

Pat Stats

Served since February 2, 2003
2,824 passengers - 583 aircraft
9,507,665 pounds of cargo
Info from MSgt. Jim Garrity, 42APS

Box Lunches

2,547 hot meals served
749 to duty personnel
2,520 to flight passengers
Info from TSgt. David Beauregard, 439SVS

Fuel (since Feb. 1)

4,118,512 gallons of JP-8
info from Jim Maloney, fuels

Eye in sky... (Cont. from page 1)

The 15-year veteran, who is accustomed to California's sunny climate, arrived just in time for one of the longest and coldest New England winters to pass. Bainbridge and controller Rich Hunting have been spending their workdays showing Comaduran the layout of Westover's runways and taxiways. Thousands of miles from his family, Comaduran said the Westover controllers have made him feel right at home as much as they can.

"The guys here have been great," Comaduran said.

Like all air traffic controllers, Westover's are trained to make sure aircraft are correctly spaced apart.

"The biggest thing is the wake turbulence," Bainbridge said. He stared at a radar screen that monitors a 15-mile radius around the base. The controllers rely on that kind of sophisticated equipment to ensure pilots get in and out of the airport quickly and safely. Aircrews departing and arriving at Westover are passed from Bradley International Airport's radar approach control just as their aircraft reach the outskirts of the Westover air

traffic pattern.

"Our controllers are true professionals doing a mission-essential job," said Capt. Mike Pirrone, airfield operations flight commander. "Our military pilots are flying to uncomfortable locations, it's our job to get them out on time, and get them on the back on the ground and to their families safely."

That is made evident by more than 40,000 landings and departures in 2002. And while people may only see C-5s flying over the base, Bainbridge said that the surge is bringing scores of other C-5s from throughout the Air Force. Besides the C-5s, other military aircraft that use Westover's runways include KC-135s, C-130s, various Army Guard helicopters, and KC-10s.

Westover's air traffic controllers also control civilian aircraft transiting the airspace and landing at the base to park at the adjacent Westover Metropolitan Airport.

"Our controllers are truly the best in Air Force Reserve Command. Frankly, they're at the top of the food chain here in New England," Pirrone said. "Aircrews, civilian and military alike, return to Westover time and time again because they know we'll take care of them."

Military advised of suspicious website

Government officials advise military people of a website that may be used for information gathering on US soldiers and family members.

The website, www.NACEC.org, claims to provide emergency notifications in order to support military families. This site requests such Privacy Act information as service members' names, addresses, Social Security numbers (SSN) and the names and addresses of family members. The site also requests the service member provide the content of a message which is to be sent to family members.

Federal authorities remind military members that this site is not associated with the federal government and should not be trusted. The site represents itself as being

owned by a not-for-profit corporation (which means they haven't filed for non-profit status and made the necessary disclosures).

Government officials said the registrant for the website is a Minnesota person who may or not be an American national. Department of Defense personnel should not enter any personal information on a non-federal website for emergency notification of families or any other reason.

Any information provided to this site could be used for identity theft, intelligence gathering by foreign nations or terrorists and could pose a threat to service members, their families and their privacy.

For more information, call MSgt. Scott Daigneault, Westover anti-terrorism NCO, at Ext. 3807.

PATRIOT
express

Contact us:

DSN:589-2020 - (413) 557-2020
www.afrc.af.mil/439aw
439patriot.editor@westover.af.mil

This publication is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 439th Airlift Wing. Call Ext. 2020 with comments, story ideas, or for additional copies. Contents of PATRIOT EXPRESS are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. PATRIOT EXPRESS will be published twice weekly.

Express-ions

